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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/034,518	12/28/2001	Peter Thomas Camble	30014514-1	1655

7590 07/14/2005

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
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EXAMINER

THAI, TUAN V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2186

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/034,518

Applicant(s)

CAMBLE ET AL.

Examiner

Tuan V. Thai

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected:
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date see Office action.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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Part III DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. This office action responsive to communication filed 06/20/2005. Claims 1-30 are presented for examination.
2. Applicant is reminded of the duty to fully disclose information under 37 CFR 1.56.
3. The Information Disclosure Statements filed 12/28/2001; 8/12/2003; 2/2/2004; 05/21/2004; 2/28/2005; 6/20/2005 have been considered by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

As per claim 8, the recitation of "restricting access of said at least one selected data transfer elements to said media in a same partition ***as said at least one selected data transfer elements***" is confusing and can not be clearly understood. It appears that the recitation of "***as said at least one selected***

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data transfer elements" is redundant and needed to be deleted.

Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-8, 10-14, 16-23 and 25-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (USPN: 5,455,409); hereinafter Smith;

As per claim 1, Smith discloses a method for securing access to a data medium said method comprises recording a unique identification number (e.g. VOLUME serial number, VOLSER) assigned to each medium (tape cartridge) in at least a portion of a data library is equivalently taught as each tape cartridge is provided with a circuit device and memory operable to store VOLSER number of the cartridge (e.g. see column 5, line 67 bridging column 6, line 6; column 11, lines 25-28); and

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commanding at least one selected data transfer element in said library to only accept media having particular ones of said identification numbers is equivalently taught as when trapping the tape request from the mainframe computer, the host computer interrogates circuitry within each of the tape carriers to determine whether there is a match between a requested volser number and the volser numbers of tapes currently stored in the respective tape carriers in order to accept or to reject the tape media (e.g. see column 6, lines 14-19; column 24, lines 44-61);

As per claim 2, Smith discloses clearing a previous list of allowed identification numbers for each data transfer element is equivalently taught as the EEPROM/or respective memory devices can be programmed/changed/cleared with appropriated VOLSER (e.g. see column 6, lines 58 et seq.; column 8, lines 44 et seq.; column 10, lines 55 et seq.);

As per claim 3, Smith discloses reading the identification numbers (VOLSER number) of media/tape (e.g. see column 14, lines 22-23);

As per claim 4, listing the identification (VOLSER) numbers of media in memory storage of the at least one selected data transfer elements that the selected data transfer elements is to be allowed to access is equivalently taught as displaying/

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listing by the display unit 66 for indicating the VOLSER number and tape cartridge location of the requested tape cartridge and the designated tape cartridge drive into which it is to be loaded (e.g. see column 10, lines 45-49);

As per claim 5, entering identification numbers (VOLSER number) of media said at least one selected data transfer elements is allowed to access in memory storage of said at least one selected data transfer elements is taught as programming the respective memory devices associated with each tape with the VOLSER number of the particular tape and other pertinent information (e.g. see column 6, lines 59 et seq.);

As per claim 6, reading the identification (VOLSER) number of said medium/tape during transport of said medium from a medium storage element slot to one of said data transfer elements (e.g. see column 6, lines 15-19; column 10, lines 55 et seq.; column 11, lines 23 et seq.);

As per claim 7; Smith discloses reading said identification (VOLSER) number of the medium/tape using a data transfer element receiving said medium (e.g. see column 14, lines 22-23);

As per claim 8, Smith discloses checking memory storage associated with said at least one selected data transfer element for said identification number of said medium/tape is equivalently taught as the host computer interrogates circuitry

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within each of the tape carriers to determine whether there is a match between a requested volser number and the volser numbers of tapes currently stored in the respective tape carriers in order to accept or to reject the tape media (e.g. see column 6, lines 14-19);

As per claims 10 and 11, Smith discloses the identification number (VOLSER) is encoded in a barcode, disposed on the medium and wherein the identification (VOLSER) number resides in cartridge memory of said medium (e.g. see column 14, lines 5 et seq.).

As per claim 12, Smith further discloses that wherein said data library is partitioned into a plurality of partitions or tape cartridges (e.g. see column 8, lines 20-21) and the recording step comprises reading said identification numbers of said media in a particular partition (VOLSER of the tape cartridge is read and encoded when host computer 52 received a tape cartridge request; e.g. see column 15, lines 14 et seq.); in addition, Smith also discloses the restricting access of the selected data transfer elements to the media in a same partition or tape cartridge as being equivalent to when comparing the VOLSER number read from a respective receptacle to the requested VOLSER number that does not match at decision block 418, a negative output (or restricted access order) is sent along path

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411 and 413 (e.g. see column 24, lines 53 et seq.);

As per claim 13, Smith discloses wherein the unique identification numbers are universally unique (e.g. see column 1, lines 39-43 and lines 60-62);

As per claim 14, Smith discloses the invention as claimed including a method for securing access to data media in a particular partition of a partitioned data library comprises listing identification numbers (VOLSER number) of media/tape that data transfer elements in said partition are allowed to access in memory storage of said data transfer elements in said partition is equivalent taught as displaying/listing by the display unit 66 for indicating the VOLSER number and tape cartridge location of the requested tape cartridge and the designated tape cartridge drive into which it is to be loaded (e.g. see column 10, lines 45-49); Smith further discloses VOLSER number of the tape cartridge is programmed/listed in the non-volatile memory device 18 that allowed to access (e.g. see column 8, lines 44 et seq.); reading an identification number of a selected medium (e.g. see column 14, lines 22-23); checking the memory storage of a data transfer element receiving said selected medium for said identification number of said selected medium and accessing said selected medium in response to said identification number of said selected medium being present in

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said memory storage of said data transfer element receiving said selected medium is equivalently taught as when trapping the tape request from the mainframe computer, the host computer interrogates circuitry within each of the tape carriers to determine whether there is a match between a requested volser number and the volser numbers of tapes currently stored in the respective tape carriers in order to accept or to reject the tape media (e.g. see column 6, lines 14-19; column 24, lines 44-61;

As per claim 16, Smith discloses clearing a previous list of allowed identification numbers for each of said data transfer elements in said partition as being equivalently to the EEPROM/or respective memory devices can be programmed/changed/cleared with appropriated VOLSER (e.g. see column 6, lines 58 et seq.; column 8, lines 44 et seq.; column 10, lines 55 et seq.);

As per claims 17 and 18, Smith discloses reading the identification number of said selected medium using the data transfer element receiving the selected medium during transport of said selected medium from a medium storage slot to said data transfer element receiving said selected medium (e.g. see column 14, lines 22-23);

As per claim 19, wherein the identification numbers (VOLSER) are encoded in barcodes disposed on the media (e.g. see

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column 14, lines 5 et seq.);

As per claim 20, wherein the identification numbers (VOLSER) reside in cartridge memory of said media (e.g. see column 8, lines 18 et seq.);

As per claim 21, wherein the unique identification numbers are universally unique (e.g. see column 1, lines 39-43 and lines 60-62);

As per claim 22, Smith discloses a partitioned data library comprises data storage media (e.g. see figures 1 and 2), each medium of the media (tape cartridge) having an identification number (e.g. see column 8, lines 18-21); a plurality of storage element slots each of said slots adapted to store a medium of said data storage media (e.g. see figure 2; column 8, lines 33 et seq.; also column 59 et seq.), at least one set of at least one of said slots assigned to one partition of a plurality of library partitions is equivalently taught as twenty tape cartridge slots is assigned for each tape carrier (e.g. see column 8, lines 63-65); Smith further discloses a plurality of data transfer elements that are adapted to receive said media and transfer data to and from said media wherein each of at least one set of at least one of said data transfer elements assigned to one of said library partitions as being equivalent to data transmission means associated with each carrier

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receptacle and each tape for updating the memory of each carrier when a tape is transferred or removed (e.g. see column 6, lines 46 et seq.), wherein access to said media by each of said data transfer elements is restricted to media having particular ones of said identification numbers is equivalently taught as when trapping the tape request from the mainframe computer, the host computer interrogates circuitry within each of the tape carriers to determine whether there is a match between a requested volser number and the volser numbers of tapes currently stored in the respective tape carriers in order to accept or to reject the tape media (e.g. see column 6, lines 14-19; column 24, lines 44-61;

As per claim 23, Smith discloses library controller as being equivalent to library controller circuit 42 for directing movement of said media to and from one of said set of slots to and from one of said sets of data transfer elements assigned to a same of said partitions (e.g. see figure 6);

As per claim 25, Smith discloses the EEPROM chip for storing identification numbers VOLSER that data transfer element is allowed to access (e.g. see column 11, lines 25-28);

As per claim 26, wherein said identification number is encoded in a barcode disposed on said medium (e.g. see column 14, lines 5 et seq.);

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As per claim 27, wherein the identification numbers (VOLSER) reside in cartridge memory of said media (e.g. see column 8, lines 18 et seq.);

As per claim 28, wherein said identification number of said medium is read during transport of said medium from one of said storage element slots to one of said data transfer elements (e.g. see column 6, lines 15-19; column 10, lines 55 et seq.; column 11, lines 23 et seq.);

As per claim 29, Smith discloses the media identification numbers (VOLSER) are read by the data transfer elements (e.g. 14, lines 24 et seq.);

As per claim 30, wherein the unique identification numbers are universally unique (e.g. see column 1, lines 39-43 and lines 60-62);

Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

- (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter

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pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 9, 15 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. (USPN: 5,455,409); hereinafter Smith.

As per claims 9, 15 and 24; Smith discloses the invention as claimed, detailed above with respect to claim 1. Noting that Smith clearly discloses a negative output is sent along path 411 and 413 when comparing the VOLSER number read from a respective receptacle to the requested VOLSER number that does not yield a match at decision block 418 (e.g. see column 24, lines 53 et seq.). Smith, however, does not particularly disclose ejecting a medium from a data transfer element in response to said identification number not being one of said particular ones of said identification numbers. First of all, it should be noted that Smith also discloses upon trapping the tape request from the mainframe computer, the host computer interrogates circuitry within each of the tape carriers to determine *whether there is a match between a requested volser number and the volser numbers of tapes currently stored in the respective tape carriers* (e.g. see column 6, lines 14-19). Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the current invention was made to readily recognize that if the

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VOLSER (or identification number as being claimed) are not matched, the media or tape should be ejected from the data transfer element; in doing so, it would avoid reading of wrong data in unmatched media which results to enhancing of system reliability by reducing system errors, therefore being advantageous.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

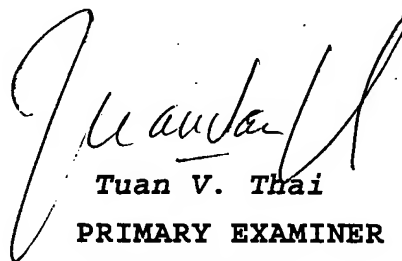
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan V. Thai whose telephone number is (571)-272-41287. The examiner can normally be reached from 6:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mathew M. Kim can be reached on (571)-272-4182. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR

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or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TVT/July 07, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuan V. Thai', is written over the printed name.

Tuan V. Thai
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Group 2100